Project title : Instrumentation and process automation

Written by : M. Thévoz

Period covered : July 1980

The undersigned, M. Thévoz, joined the company in June 1980 and is presently in charge of the automation of cigarette smoke routine analysis.

Data processing of finished products QC

A project study was initiated with the objective to increase the status of automation in the smoke laboratory. For this purpose, a direct link between instruments and a laboratory computer for acquisition, storage and computation of analytical data should offer the following major advantages.

- Improvement of analysis throughput without increasing personnel number.
- Reduced error risks in data transcription and transfer.
- Better control of off-range analytical values.
- Immediate reports and listing of recorded data.
- On-line and interactive connection with EDP services.
- Remote interrogation capabilities via host computer.
- Direct access to results and information on analysis in progress.
- Immediate comparison and correlation between old and new analytical data.
- Connection facilities for PME cigarette data bank filling.
- Local on-line statistics.

At the present time, four different companies, (HP, Digital, IBM, Data General) have been contacted. A detailed description of the specifications and constraints was given to their technical staffs in order to define the most suitable configuration. A critical analysis of the presented products will be done during August and discussed at the beginning of September with the potential laboratory users.

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